

Bellefonte, Pa., April 19, 1907.

WALK OVER GLOWING COALS.

The Participants In the Mystifying Spectacle Play With the Fiery Embers as Children Play With Sand and Emerge Unharmed.

I once witnessed a most remarkable ordeal by fire at Benares, India. It was held on the grounds of a villa on the outskirts of the city, and among us were some of the most prominent men and women of official and social life in British India. Army and navy officers touched elbows with French savants, all more than glad to accept an invitation that might at least offer opportunity either to catch some clew toward solving the mystery of the Indian fire ordeal or else catch the priestly performers in a nice trap at consummate and age long deception, successfully worked among a superstitious and overcredulous people like the Hindoos

Seats had been arranged for our party out on the spacious lawn, where a trench had been dug sixteen feet long, six feet wide and four feet deep. The fire in the trench was lighted before noon, but the ordeal itself was not to come off until after sunset. The trench was filled with kindling wood and logs and was set afire by the attendants, who kept up a blaze as hot as a blast furnace all day long, until the trench by sunset was filled three feet deep with a compact, glowing bed of redhot coals.

We were escorted to our seats at about 6:30, and we were not inclined to question the reality of that fire from the moment we sat down within twelve feet of it. Whatever else might be fraud or hypnotism in this Indian fire ordeal, we could not for a moment doubt the realism of that scorching heat that made our eyes smart and grow bloodshot. We, who had come to scoff and doubt, were soon realizing that the managers of the Benares fire ordeal had already gained 75 points out of 100 in favor of their honesty and of their power over the mighty element of fire, that figures so largely in oriental philosophy as one of the three or four primal elements of the physical universe.

A great commotion and babel of voices soon proclaimed the coming of the procession of priests, headed by the arch priest Brahmapoots, carrying a huge Indian sword, followed by the two minor priests who were destined to walk unharmed through that yard thick fiery bed, scintillating in the increasing darkness and lighting up the dark faces of the hundreds of gaping Hindoos standing behind us. While we Europeans and Americans, always

hypercritical and given to scientific re-Lincoln to hear the matter. The acsearch, were awaiting the coming of count of a guardian was in

to suddenly catch the spirit of thei priests, and, sure of their conquest over the power of fire, they began plunging into the trench. Old men and young children walked through that fiery furnace, forward and backward, and when they had tired of this "playing

with fire" they came out as they had entered, not a hair or a garment scorched, not even the soles of their feet blistered. Only males are allowed to go through

the fire ordeal. Never yet has any scientific theory explained the power of the Siva wor-

shipers over fire. We ourselves were absolutely convinced that trickery was not to be considered as an explanation of what we had witnessed .- Los Angeles Times.

A Caddie's Cadenza.

Lady Golfer (to would be caddle)-But what do you know about the game? Can you make a tee, for instance? The Would Be Caddie-Can I make- Why, in my young days, lidy, I used ter do it that well they called mem the teacaddy .-- London Sketch.

ANCIENT ARMIES.

Ten thousand horse and 100,000 foot

fell on the fatal field of Issus. The army of Artaxerxes before the battle of Cunaxa amounted to about

1.200,000. An army of Cambyses, 50,000 strong, was buried in the desert sands of Africa by a south wind.

A short time after the taking of Babylon the forces of Cyrus consisted of CASTORIA 600,000 foot, 120,000 horse and 2,000 chariots armed with scythes.

Ninus, the Assyrian king, about 220 B. C., led against the Bactrians his army, consisting of 1,700,000 foot soldiers, 200,000 horse and 16,000 chariots armed with scythes.

When Xerxes arrived at Thermopylae his land and sea forces amounted to 2,641,610, exclusive of servants, eunuchs, women, sutlers, etc., in all numbering 5,283,220. So say Herodotus, Plutarch and Isocrates.

Why Paper Cuts.

Have you ever cut yourself with a piece of paper? The edge of a piece of glazed paper looks much like that of a knife under the microscope. Of course the little teeth have not the strength of steel, but if the edge of the paper is drawn swiftly over the finger without much pressure that peculiar property of matter called inertia comes into play, and the tender teeth will cut the flesh before they are broken. The same property it is which allows a candle to be shot through a one inch plank or permits a bullet to pass through a pane of glass without shattering it, leaving only a clean, round hole .- C. H. Claudy in St. Nicholas.

Lincoln and a Suit of Clothes. On one occasion a judge was ill and. being unable to sit in a case, delegated

As Others See Us.

"And do the Americans shine in their conversation?" asks the intervlewer of the foreigner who has returned to his native land.

"Let me tell you," replies the foreigner. "In mixed company the ladies assemble on one side of the room, and all talk at once about cooks and dresses, and the men assemble at the other side of the room and talk about automobiles and money."--New York Life.

His Quest.

An Irishman whose wife was fond of moving from one house to another was met by a friend the other morning while walking behind a van load of household goods and saluted with: "Hello, Mick! Shifting again? Where 000 earths. might you be going this time?" "I don't know, begorra," said Mick. "I'm in the production of honey. It is estimated that there are 2,000,000 beebives in that following the furniture to find out."-Kansas City Independent. country, with an output of 20,000 tons.

No Chance.

"Opportunity." remarked the boarder who is always quoting maxims, "knocks once at every man's door." "It'll never knock at any door of mine," said the seedy boarder. "I sleep in an attic."-Chicago Tribune.

A man who shows no defects is a fool or a hypocrite whom we should mistrust.-Joubert.

FOR INFANTS and CHILDREN.

Bears the signature of

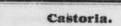
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rounded out to the fullness of a completed and abiding faith in Hindoo control and mastery of the devouring element of fire, our Hindoo fellow onlookers, on the other hand, were anticipating the ordeal with all the simplicity of credulous children. Ours was an almost terrifying heart tension, and we almost wished that we were not occidental skeptics, always bent on doubting things of an extraordinary nature. The priests marched about the trench

chanting and performing mystic incantations, carrying along a glass reliquary, or shrine, in which was seen the image of the god Siva, who, in the Hindoo religious system, is one of the trinity and is worshiped as the destroyer, Brahma being the creator and Vishnu the preserver of the universe. We do not know to this day what those priests said as they perambulated about that fiery trench, but we do know what soon followed, for, at the end of the incantation, the two candidates for the ordeal plunged into the redhot coals and walked ankle deep the whole length of the trench, backward and forward, time and time again. They played with that scintillating, glowing fire as children play with the sands of Coronado beach, kicking it with their feet and stooping down to pick up handfuls of the glowing coals, tossing them in the air, to be blown by the rising evening breeze all over our heads and our easily inflammable clothing. We were really afraid. No doubt about those sparks and live, falling coals!

When the two priests had walked up and down alone through that fiery trench unscathed and unscorched then the whole Hindoo throng seemed

the monient when our 75 per cent of | He had paid \$28 for a suit of clothes credulity was either to be shattered or for his ward and justified it on the ground that it was a necessary expense. Lincoln held against the guardian on the ground that it was an extravagant expenditure and in passing on the case stated that he had never in his life owned a suit of clothes that cost \$28.

> Wasn't Sure. "Remember," said the lawyer, "you

have undertaken to tell nothing but the truth." "I'll do my best," answered the ex-

pert witness, "but I won't know how far I have succeeded until I'm through with the cross examination."--Wash-Ington Star.

The Doubt.

Borrows-By the way, Knox, did I leave my umbreila at your office yesterday? Knox-You left an umbrella, but I don't know whether it was yours or not.-Exchange.

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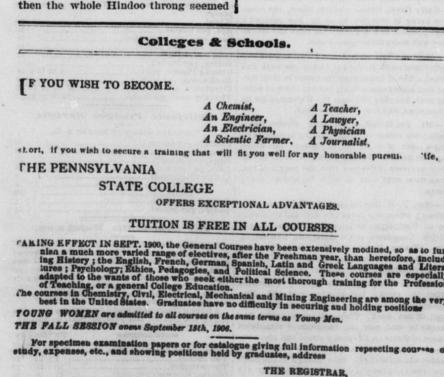
Thunder in September indicates a good crop of grain and fruit for the next year .-- Old Proverb.

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